



# Indiana's 2020 303(d) List of Impaired Waters

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# Clean Water Act (CWA)

## Section 303(d) List of Impaired Waters

- The “303(d) List” identifies waters found to be impaired, not supporting one or more designated uses
- Submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) as part of Indiana’s Integrated Water Monitoring and Assessment Report every two years.
  - Process includes a state-mandated 90-day public comment period (January 29 to April 28, 2020 for this cycle)
  - The Notice of Comment describes changes to the 303(d) List since last submittal and includes IDEM’s assessment methodology



# Categories in the Consolidated List

- Category 1 — All designated uses have been assessed and are fully supported
- Category 2 — The use has been assessed, it's fully supported, and no other uses are impaired
- Category 3 — Not enough data or information to determine if the use is supported
- Category 4 — **The use is impaired** but a TMDL is not required
- Category 5 — **The use is impaired** and a TMDL is required → **This is the 303(d) List**



# ATTAINS

- IDEM is now in the process of submitting its Integrated Report (IR) and 303(d) List through U.S. EPA's new Assessment, Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Tracking and Implementation System (ATTAINS)
- Online database that automates and streamlines data management and IR submittals, including the 303(d) List
- For 2020, all components of the IR have been submitted through the new system

# Telling the "Whole" Story

- In addition to better data management and streamlined submittals, ATTAINS will help IDEM report a more accurate picture of water quality in Indiana
  - In the past, tracking and reporting focused almost entirely on impaired waters
  - ATTAINS makes it easier to track and report on high quality waters too
  - Will require more extensive data management, but that work is now far more streamlined



# Category 5 (the 303(d) List) at a Glance

| Total Number of Impairments | Individual Waterbodies Impaired |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 6,526                       | 4,299                           |

| Streams               |                             |                | Lakes                 |                           |                |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Number of Impairments | Individual Reaches Impaired | Miles Impaired | Number of Impairments | Individual Lakes Impaired | Acres Impaired |
| 4,166                 | 4,254                       | 21,423         | 173                   | 137                       | 56,342         |

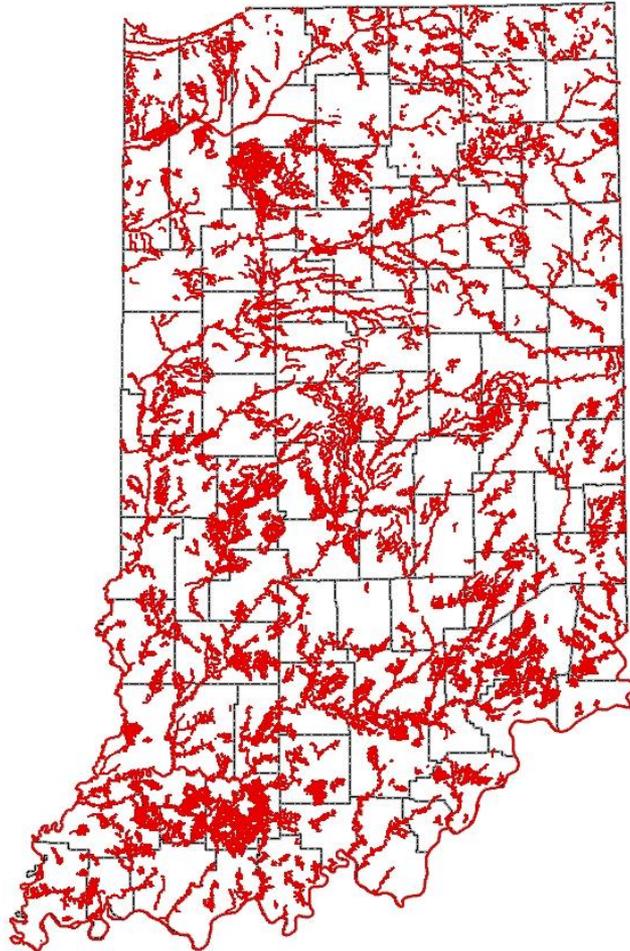


# Category 4 at a Glance

| Total Number of Impairments | Individual Waterbodies Impaired |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 3,029                       | 2,662                           |

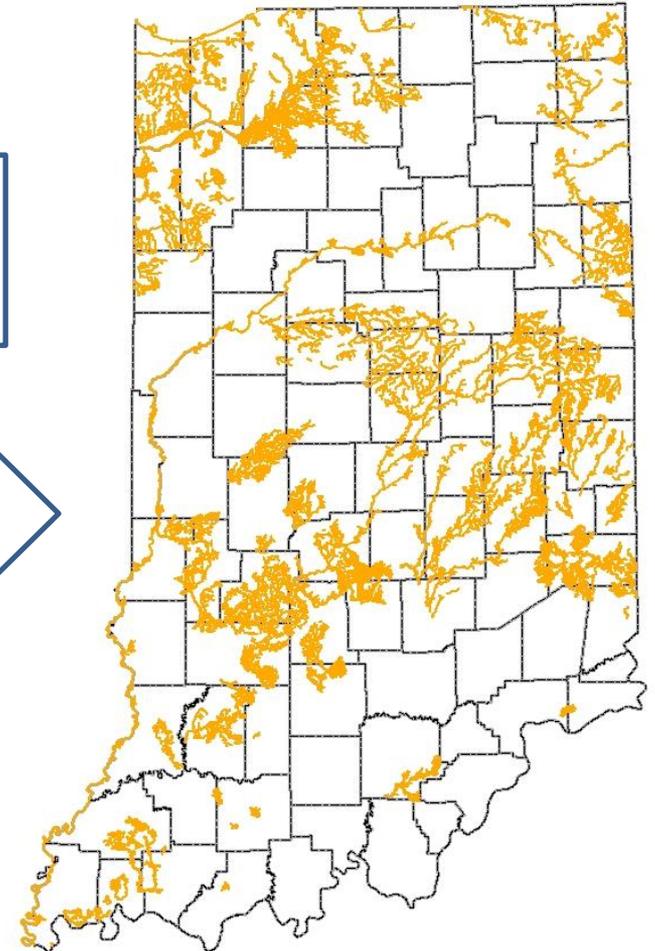
| Streams               |                             |                | Lakes                 |                           |                |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Number of Impairments | Individual Reaches Impaired | Miles Impaired | Number of Impairments | Individual Lakes Impaired | Acres Impaired |
| 3,027                 | 2,661                       | 13,215         | 2                     | 1                         | 1,556          |

# All Impairments Identified to Date



**Category 5**

**Category 4**





# Top Causes of Impairment

| Cause of Impairment                                | Category 4 | Category 5<br>303(d) List | Total        |
|--|------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| <i>Escherichia coli</i> ( <i>E. coli</i> )         | 2,573      | 2,222                     | <b>4,795</b> |
| Biological Integrity                               | 190        | 1,542                     | <b>1,732</b> |
| Polychlorinated Biphenyls<br>(PCBs) in Fish Tissue | 0          | 1,255                     | <b>1,255</b> |
| Dissolved Oxygen                                   | 52         | 542                       | <b>594</b>   |
| Nutrients  | 185        | 439                       | <b>624</b>   |
| Mercury in Fish Tissue                             | 0          | 139                       | <b>139</b>   |

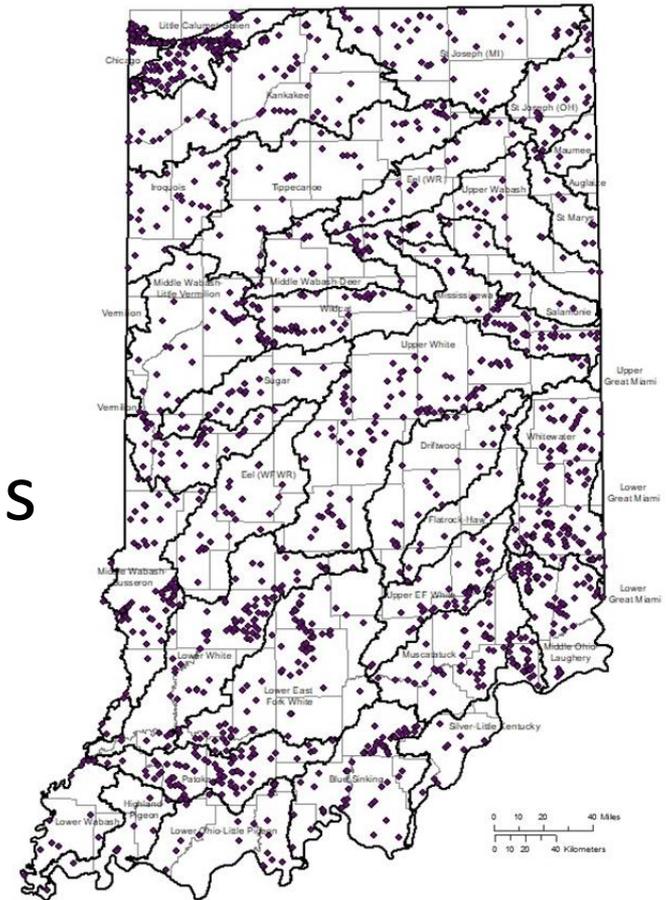


# Summary of Changes

- No big changes in 2020, but going in the right direction:
  - 210 fewer impairments and 92 fewer waterbodies impaired
  - 31 of those impairments on 26 waterbodies were found to have water quality improvements
- Remaining changes were the result of:
  - Additional review by IDEM for errors in the data
  - Continued TMDL development

# Key Take-Aways

- No major changes in the number or types of impairments IDEM is seeing
- Monitoring, assessment, and TMDL development continues
  - 2,994 TMDLs now approved for impaired waters
  - IDEM monitors at about 250-275 sites each year



**IDEM's surface water monitoring sites sampled 2011-2019**



# Where to Find More Information

[www.idem.IN.gov/nps/2647.htm](http://www.idem.IN.gov/nps/2647.htm)

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